

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
MARCH 9, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by chairman, Yale Cantor at 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Hassan Salley, Yale Cantor, Sue Stack, Melinda Ferry, Dennis Frawley,

OTHERS PRESENT: John Reilly, District Executive Director , YMCA , Vernon, CT.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PRESENTER: John Reilly led a discussion on the YMCA set to come to Ellington. The new facility will offer healthy life style activities for all age groups. The 40,000 square foot building will house a swimming pool, wellness center, exercise studios, and childwatch-daycare while parents participate in activities. The building will be a certified green building that is environmentally friendly and complements the rural landscape. But more than all of this it will be a safe haven for adults, youth, children and seniors. The YMCA will work with social services to provide financial assistance to those seniors or families that need scholarships to participate in YMCA programs. Membership is estimated to be \$20-30 per month. YMCAs' are independently operated. The YMCA is a 157 year old organization with women making up 51 % of membership and seniors represent the fastest growing membership population. Phase two of the planned facility will have a gym, teen center, and climbing wall. The center will be open 7 days a week from 5:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M.

As a regional center, the YMCA will serve the towns of Ellington, Tolland, Vernon, South Windsor, East Windsor, Enfield, Somers and Stafford. The YMCA is expected to open in the summer of 2010. The core values of the YMCA are honesty, respect, caring, and responsibility. The presence of a YMCA stabilizes a community by providing a center for community events and community groups to use. The YMCA enriches a community by mobilizing coaches and other volunteers. The YMCA enhances the regional economy by becoming a large employer (possibly 200 people) YMCA purchasing and spending supports local government .

The YMCA needs to raise 4 million dollars to make the new facility a reality in Ellington. This will be done through donations, large and small. Corporations and or individuals through their generosity can have the new YMCA named after them or one of the activity centers, such as the pool, entrance lobby, wellness center, natatorium center, etc.

Mr. Reilly will be presenting his presentation to the senior center at the end of the month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motioned (D. Frawley), Seconded (M. Ferry), and passed by all those present to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: On February 19th the senior center director and the human services director attended a full day housing workshop in Hartford sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. As a result of information gleaned from the workshop,

the Town of Ellington will have their consultant research if there are "planning only" funds available to develop a preliminary design for senior housing or a community center. The study may help to determine which will be more beneficial and cost effective for the Town. Since it takes at least a year to submit an application that is "shovel ready" with blueprints or designs the Town will consider whether or not to apply for 2010 for funding besides housing rehab.

Authorization to apply for a Department of Transportation (DOT) Grant application for a replacement van for the senior center was approved by the Board of Selectmen at its February 2009 meeting. Staff will be ready to submit the completed grant before March 27th. The DOT Match Grant for Dial-A-Ride has been cut for the 2009-2010 fiscal year from 5 million dollars to 4 million. When and how much may be funded next year is up in the air.

While the deliverable fuel part of the energy program is winding down the utility heated portion of the program is just beginning. Energy will run until the first of May. As this program is closing down Renters' Rebate will start off on May 15th.

We have received a very generous donation from an Ellington resident who made a donation to our food bank and has pledged to do so on a monthly basis. M. William Phelps, a writer will encourage other writers to make a pledge through Writers for Food. The number of household participating in the monthly food bank is increasing. We are presently serving more than 50 households.

An article appeared in the magazine, *Town and City*, a publication of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities on DAPC/YSB radio ads to reduce underage drinking.

Jean Bassel, assistant senior center director has been recommended for permanent status by the senior center director. This recommendation will be on the agenda for the March Board of Selectmen meeting.

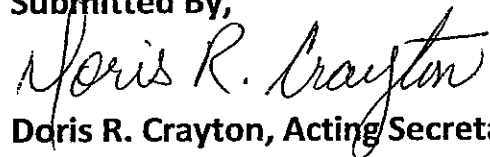
At the end of February Elderly Outreach Caseworker, Anna Turner and the Human Services Director met with members of the faith community to discuss gaps in unmet social service needs. This will meet again in April to continue this discussion. The group has not come up with a name for its self.

OLD BUSINESS: Motioned (D. Frawley), Seconded (M. Ferry), and passed by all those present to accept the 2009-2010 Human Services Budget in the amount of \$544,339.00. This budget will be presented to the Board of Finance tomorrow night at 7:50 P.M. Commission members are encouraged to be present to support the budget.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motioned (S. Stack), Seconded (M. Ferry), and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:04 P.M.

Submitted By,



Doris R. Crayton, Acting Secretary